

THE MICHIGAN
WWII LEGACY
Memorial

HONORING SACRIFICE. CELEBRATING FREEDOM.

May 16, 2018

Dear members of House Tax Policy Committee:

I want to thank Chairman Tedder for putting this legislation on today's agenda. I also want to thank Senator Bieda and Senator Knollenberg for sponsoring this legislation

I'm sorry I am not able to appear in person today as I received notice of the hearing too late yesterday to adjust my schedule. However, we wanted to make sure we were officially on record before your committee in support of this legislation. So please accept this written statement on behalf of the board of The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial.

We began in 2007 as Honor Flight Michigan. Under this banner we flew 1,400 Michigan WWII veterans to Washington DC so they could see their national memorial. After four and a half years, and 33 flights, our mission was accomplished. At that point we decided that after taking Michigan to the memorial, it was time to bring the memorial to Michigan. This is what led us to conceive of The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial.

With the help of then Senator John Pappageorge and Representative Jim Townsend, Senate resolution 2013 13 and House resolution 2013 21 were unanimously passed recognizing the Michigan WWII Legacy memorial as the state's tribute to its contributions to WWII.

The memorial will tell Michigan's story during WWII on both the home front and the war front. It will highlight Michigan as the Arsenal of Democracy and the unprecedented production that ensured victory.

Our goal is to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of the war, in August of 2020, at the memorial site. This legislation is a critical step in raising the necessary funds to make this happen. It also uniquely enables Michigan residents from across the state to support this project. Moreover, we need it passed in time to update 2018 tax codes and forms.

We are asking the House Tax Policy Committee support this legislation by passing these bills out of committee to the house floor with urgency.

Thank you again for your consideration and support.



Debi Hollis, President
The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial
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